

HARBERD et al
Appl. No. 09/911,513
February 6, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-48 (Cancelled).

49 (Cancel).

50. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence coding for a polypeptide of which the amino acid sequence comprises the 17 amino acid sequence which is underlined in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO: 2) and has at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO. 2), wherein expression of said nucleic acid in a plant results in inhibition of growth of the plant, the inhibition being ~~antagonised~~ wholly or partially reversed by gibberellin (GA).

51. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence coding for a polypeptide which comprises the 17 amino acid sequence that is underlined in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:2) and which includes an amino acid sequence which has at least 90% identity with the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein expression of said nucleic acid complements a *GAI* null mutant phenotype in a plant, such phenotype being resistance to the dwarfing effect of paclobutrazol.

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52 (Cancel).

53. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid that hybridizes to the complement of a nucleic acid coding for the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO. 2), under the following conditions: hybridization without formamide for 18 hours at 65°C, with washing once with 3 x SSC (1 x SSC is 0.15 M NaCl, 0.015 M sodium citrate), 0.1% SDS for 25 minutes at 65°C, and once with 0.1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS for 25 minutes at 65°C,

wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide of which the amino acid sequence comprises the 17 amino acid sequence which is underlined in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO: 2) and expression of said isolated nucleic acid in a plant results in inhibition of growth of the plant, the inhibition being ~~antagonised~~ wholly or partially reversed by gibberellin (GA).

54. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid that hybridizes to the complement of a nucleic acid coding for the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO. 2), under the following conditions: hybridization without formamide for 18 hours at 65°C, with washing once with 3 x SSC (1 x SSC is 0.15 M NaCl, 0.015 M sodium citrate), 0.1% SDS for 25 minutes at 65°C, and once with 0.1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS for 25 minutes at 65°C,

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wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide of which the amino acid sequence comprises the 17 amino acid sequence which is underlined in Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO: 2) and expression of said isolated nucleic acid complements a *GAI* null mutant phenotype in a plant, such phenotype being resistance to the dwarfing effect of paclobutrazol.

55. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid according to any one of claims 50, 51, 53 and 54 wherein said plant is *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

56. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid according to any one of claims 49 to 54 further comprising a regulatory sequence for expression.

57. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid according to claim 56 wherein the regulatory sequence comprises an inducible promoter.

58. (Previously Presented) A nucleic acid vector suitable for transformation of a plant cell and comprising the nucleic acid according to any one of claims 49 to 54.

59. (Currently Amended) A host cell containing ~~heterologous~~ the nucleic acid according to any one of claims 49 to 54, wherein said cell is a plant cell or a bacterial cell and wherein said nucleic acid is heterologous to said cell.

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60. (Cancelled).

61. (Currently Amended) A plant cell according to claim ~~60~~ 59 having said heterologous nucleic acid within its genome.

62. (Previously Presented) The plant cell according to claim 61 which is comprised in a plant, a plant part or a plant propagule, or extract of a plant.

63. (Currently Amended) A method of producing the cell according to claim ~~60~~ 59, the method comprising incorporating said nucleic acid into the cell by means of transformation.

64. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 63, which comprises recombining the nucleic acid with the cell genome nucleic acid such that it is stably incorporated therein.

65. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 64 which comprises regenerating a plant from one or more transformed cells.

66. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 65 comprising sexually or asexually propagating or growing off-spring or a descendant of the plant regenerated from said plant cell.

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67. (Previously Presented) A plant comprising the plant cell according to claim 61.

68. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a plant, the method comprising incorporating the nucleic acid according to any one of claims 49 to 54 into a plant cell and regenerating a plant from said plant cell.

69. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~influencing a characteristic~~ repressing the growth of a plant, ~~which characteristic is selected from plant growth and flowering time,~~ the method comprising causing or allowing expression from ~~heterologous~~ the nucleic acid according to any one of claims 49-54 50, 51, 53 and 54 within cells of the plant, wherein said nucleic acid is heterologous to said cells.

70. (New) A method of delaying the flowering time of a plant, the method comprising causing or allowing expression from the nucleic acid according to any one of claims 50, 51, 53 and 54 within cells of the plant, wherein said nucleic acid is heterologous to said cells.